

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Regulatory Amendment 21 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 21) October 2014**

#### **What actions are contained in Regulatory Amendment 21?**

- Regulatory Amendment 21 redefines the overfished (too few fish in a population) threshold for red snapper, blueline tilefish, gag, black grouper, yellowtail snapper, vermilion snapper, red porgy, and greater amberjack.
- The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 21 published in the *Federal Register* on October 7, 2014 [79 FR 60379] and will be effective on November 6, 2014.

#### **Why is the South Atlantic Council changing the overfished threshold for these snapper-grouper species?**

- The current overfished definition may unnecessarily result in overfished determinations for those species when reductions in biomass are caused by natural fluctuations in the population rather than fishing pressure.
- Establishing a new threshold for determining whether or not the above species are considered overfished is expected to prevent the need for restrictive management actions when reductions in the population are due to non-fishing related factors i.e., naturally occurring events such as weather or water temperature shifts.

#### **Where can I get more information on Regulatory Amendment 21?**

- Regulatory Amendment 21 and its final rule are available online at the NOAA Fisheries Web site [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/2014/reg\\_am21/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am21/index.html).
- The contact person for Regulatory Amendment 21 is Kate Michie of NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries, who may be reached at: (727) 824-5305, or by e-mail at [Kate.Michie@noaa.gov](mailto:Kate.Michie@noaa.gov).